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February 17, 1997, which claims priority from provisional Application Serial No. 60/016,988, filed May 7, 1996, and British Patent Application No. GB 9603168.7, filed February 15, 1996.

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claims:

C2
Sub 7/1
Claim 1. (Twice Amended):

A method for increasing the feed efficiency of animals comprising administering to the animals a solid feed comprising a feedstuff and an amount of an organism that increases the feed efficiency of said animals, wherein said organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

Sub 20
Claim 14. (Amended):

A solid feed comprising a solid feedstuff and an amount of an organism selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*, wherein said amount of organism increases animal feed efficiency.

Claim 15. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.

C3
Sub 23
Claim 16. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said amount of organism is administered in an amount of between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

Claim 17. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said amount of organism is between 10^9 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

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Docket No. GJE-13XC1D1C1
Serial No. 09/767,355Claim 18. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said solid feedstuff comprises forage, cereal grain, grasses, legumes, crop residues, corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, barley, oats, rice, cottonseed, gin trash, cotton processing byproducts, potato waste, citrus pulp, almond hulls, peanut hulls, bakery waste, wheat midds, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 19. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus kefir*.

Claim 20. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus parakefir*.

Claim 21. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

Claim 22. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 18, wherein said solid feedstuff is whole, chopped, ground, ensiled, cracked, high moisture, or steam-flaked.
